THE LORDSHIP OF THE MANOR OF WARNDON

Historical, Legal and Documentary Memorandum

Concerning the Contemporary Possession and Continuity of an Ancient English Manorial Lordship

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Date: 2026

ABSTRACT

This memorandum records the historical existence, documentary continuity, legal character and contemporary possession of the incorporeal manorial dignity known as the Lordship of the Manor of Warndon, historically situated in Worcestershire, England.

The purpose of this publication is not to create, confer or establish any new title, but to preserve and document the historical and contemporary status of an ancient manorial lordship whose origins predate the modern legal reforms affecting English feudal tenure.

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1. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Manor of Warndon is an ancient manor situated in Worcestershire, England, whose origins can be traced to the medieval manorial structure of England and whose documentary history extends over many centuries.

Historically the manor formed part of a broader territorial and manorial landscape associated at various times with ecclesiastical, feudal and landed interests within the County of Worcester.

The manor subsequently became associated with the Spetchley Estate and with members of the Berkeley family, who held extensive territorial interests throughout Worcestershire.

Historical records identify the existence of associated manorial divisions and dependencies including Smite, Tolladine, Trotshill and other territorial subdivisions historically connected with the manor.

2. DOCUMENTARY EXISTENCE

The historical existence of the Manor of Warndon is evidenced by surviving manorial, archival and cartographic records preserved within the documentary heritage of England.

References relating to the manor appear within collections identified through the:

- The National Archives
- Manorial Documents Register
- Parish records
- Estate papers

- Historical surveys
- Cartographic sources
- Genealogical and local historical records

The existence of such records establishes the historical reality of the manor and its place within the English manorial system.

3. LEGAL CHARACTER OF THE LORDSHIP

The Lordship of the Manor of Warndon constitutes an incorporeal hereditament under the traditional framework of English law.

The lordship must be distinguished from:

- ownership of land;
- peerage dignities;
- governmental authority;
- territorial sovereignty.

Historically, the lordship represented the seignorial and manorial dignity associated with the manor.

Subsequent reforms, including the Law of Property Acts of 1922 and 1925, abolished many practical feudal incidents but did not necessarily extinguish the historical and symbolic identity of surviving manorial lordships.

4. CONTEMPORARY POSSESSION

The contemporary possession of the Lordship of the Manor of Warndon is traced to a Deed of Transfer executed in 2013.

Since that date the lordship has been:

- continuously claimed;
- publicly asserted;
- peacefully possessed;
- historically researched;
- and documented through various publications and registrations.

No successful legal challenge to the contemporary possession of the lordship is known to have occurred.

5. PUBLIC DOCUMENTARY NOTORIETY

Since 2013 the lordship has been publicly associated with:

through:

- historical publications;
- manorial registers;
- heraldic directories;
- legal memoranda;
- commercial and reputational use;
- and related documentary activity.

References have appeared within specialist manorial and heraldic publications including:

- Manorial Society of England and Wales. The contemporary possession of the Lordship has been reflected in successive editions of specialist manorial directories published by the Manorial Society of England and Wales, in which the Lordship of Warndon is listed together with its contemporary holder. Such publications contribute to the documentary and bibliographical record of the Lordship and have been preserved within institutional library collections. https://www.msoew.co.uk/
- Manorial Guild. Since 2014. https://www.manoriallordships.com/
- Official Manorial Title Register. https://www.manorialdocumentsregister.com/
- Armiger UK. https://armiger.uk/fernandez-briceno

Such publications do not create title but constitute evidence of public documentary assertion and continuity.

6. SOCIOLOGICAL CONTINUITY

Throughout English history many manorial lordships have survived less through active feudal jurisdiction than through continuity of recognition, historical memory, documentary preservation and social acceptance.

The contemporary significance of a manorial lordship lies primarily in:

- historical identity;
- heritage;
- genealogy;
- local history;
- ceremonial dignity;
- and documentary continuity.

In this respect the Lordship of the Manor of Warndon represents a surviving element of England's historical constitutional and manorial heritage.

7. LIMITATION, ACQUIESCENCE AND CONTINUITY

The uninterrupted public assertion of a manorial dignity over a prolonged period may be relevant to legal doctrines concerning:

- acquiescence;
- estoppel;
- laches;
- delay;
- limitation of actions, Limitation Act 1980;
- quiet possession.

This publication does not seek to determine legal rights but records the factual circumstances of contemporary possession and public assertion.

8. DECLARATION OF RECORD

For documentary, historical and archival purposes it is hereby recorded that:

D. Francisco José Bermejo Fernández-Briceño, Spanish citizen, is the contemporary holder and claimant in possession of the incorporeal dignity known as the **Lordship of the Manor of Warndon**, pursuant to a Deed of Transfer executed in 2013 and subsequent continuous public possession and assertion.

The present claim derives from a Deed of Transfer executed in 2013 by Baron Graham Fothergill, from whom the contemporary claimant acquired the Lordship. Since that date the Lordship has been continuously and publicly asserted, documented and maintained without any known successful challenge.

9. PURPOSE OF THIS PUBLICATION

This publication is intended:

- to preserve historical information;
- to record documentary continuity;
- to facilitate future research;
- to assist archivists, genealogists and historians;
- and to provide a permanent public record of the contemporary possession of the Lordship of the Manor of Warndon.

Suggested Internet Archive Metadata

Title: The Lordship of the Manor of Warndon: Historical, Legal and Documentary Memorandum

Creator: Francisco José Bermejo Fernández-Briceño

Date: 2026

Subjects:

- Lordship of the Manor of Warndon
- Manorial Law
- English Feudal History
- Worcestershire
- Manorial Documents Register
- Spetchley Estate
- Incorporeal Hereditaments
- English Legal History
- Historical Lordships
- Limitation Act 1980

Description:
A historical, legal and documentary study concerning the ancient Lordship of the Manor of Warndon, Worcestershire, England, including its historical development, documentary evidence, legal character and contemporary possession.